

ITALY HAS TWO MILLION MEN ENGAGED IN THE WAR AND IS SOON TO ADD ANOTHER MILLION

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] ITALY Dec. 19.—Italy has two million men engaged in the war and is adding another million. About 2 million men are on the fight line stretching along the mountains from Trentino in the west to the Alpine stronghold of Gorizia in the east. Another million is in reserve. The third million represents those in the Italian colonies now being assembled.

What they have accomplished in the war is best understood by taking a map of Italy, showing the northern frontier. The Alps sweep in a great curve from the French frontier on the west to the Austrian frontier on the south. Thus need be taken the Alps from east or west in a series of natural waterways or boundary of Italy, separating it from the nations and races to the north now as it did in the days of ancient Rome. But in two places this natural sweep of the Alps is broken down to the south, through the Trentino region to the west and then in the Triest region of the Upper Adige. Thus the natural boundary of the Alps of Italy is broken at two vital points, and Austria has stretched down in both these points and firmly established her political control, her center of Trentino, arising from the time of Napoleon and the Triest region from the war of 1866.

The first object therefore of Italy's campaign is to get back the two provinces which dent the natural frontier of the Alps, thus regaining former Italian territory and re-establishing the natural defense of the Alpine defense. This main objective has necessitated dividing the campaign into two parts, one in the west with Trentino as the center and the other in the east with Triest as the chief object. Between them, however, no major operations are engaged in the western part, the main effort being concentrated in Trentino, where about one million troops are operating toward Triest.

These two objectives are two separate campaigns, but both, however, are under the direction of General Cadorna, commander in chief.

The main Italian drive has been in the east, against the Austrian Trentino. This drive has hardly more than ten days march from the Italian frontier. And yet the war has been going on for six months—since May 23—and the Italian arms are now near Triest. The military leaders in the Austrian part of the campaign have been cautious, taking time, often fifteen days, but it could not be held as the Sarajevo armistice swept around back of Triest with Austrian batteries posted on every crest. The Italian commanders, therefore, decided it was a military necessity to control the air route, and so made a series of refuges before attacking the city. That has been the task of the campaign going on for the last six months, with its multitude of skirmishes and小戰役, with its numerous battles and skirmishes, and necessary reconnoitering before each attack.

Most of the fighting in this region has been along the Isonzo river, with the Austrian town of Gorizia as the main point of attack. Here the Italians began the slow and tedious process of first gaining control of all the elevated positions which could serve the Austrians before breaking loose on Gorizia and Triest. This has required the movement of troops along mountain roads and the carrying of guns to great heights.

The Italian commanders express satisfaction with the progress made in the last six months. At the end of the war, based on the Italian and Austrian records, there is at one time entered Italy. The Austrian coast ports, Porto Ercole and Grado, leading toward Triest, have been taken by the Italians, and from Grado the lights of Triest can be seen at night across the Adriatic.

Pushed north in the mountain country, the Sarajevo has been won through the cost of whole regiments cut to pieces and a chain of mountain tops, villages and stations has been established encircling Gorizia. But Gorizia itself holds out through its natural mountain defences and, necessary to its continued hold, has kept up a steady supply of gunners to great heights.

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